

001 14 1953

Approved For Release 1999/09/07 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000200410068-7

FOIAb3a



The WASHINGTON DAILY News

A SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWSPAPER
"Give light and the people will find their own way"

John T. O'Rourke, Editor

Ray F. Mack, Business Manager

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1953

1013 13th St. N.W. (20005)

DL 1777

In Metropolitan Washington: By Carrier, 50 cents per week; \$1.50 per month; By Mail, 3 months, \$4.50; 6 months, \$7.50; per year, \$15.00. Foreign Mail: 3 months, \$24.00; per year, \$48.00. Post Office Paid.

No Change in Viet Nam

DESPITE elaborate efforts to give the impression all is calm among U. S. agencies in South Viet Nam, President Kennedy substantially has confirmed reports of dissension.

At his press conference last week he insisted there is harmony "between the State Department at the top, Defense Department at the top, the White House and Ambassador Lodge."

We don't doubt this. But he added, rather strangely: "If down below there is disagreement, I think in part it will be because they are not wholly informed of what action we are taking. . . . I think we are in agreement about what we ought to do. I would think that Saigon, and personnel in the various agencies, should support that policy because that is the policy we are going to carry out for a while."

For a while? And what policy? Our Government's protests against mishandling of the Buddhists have had no apparent effect, and a team from the United Nations is going to South Viet

Nam to investigate. Demands that President Diem dismiss his brother, Nhu, have been ignored.

But if there is a policy and U. S. representatives in Saigon don't understand it, it seems to us they ought to be enlightened. If they don't support policy after they understand it, they ought to be brought home.

Perhaps action along these lines is contemplated as a result of the recent investigation by Defense Secretary McNamara and Gen. Taylor. Tho no one publicly admits it, their findings obviously prompted the recall of our CIA chief in Saigon.

The President's own words stress the need for tough decisions, either to get out or get on with the war. Asked how things are progressing in Viet Nam—if there has been significant change for better or worse—he replied:

"I say I don't think there have been changes in the situation in the last month. I still think we are dealing with the same problems we were dealing with a month ago."

25X1A9a

CPYRGHT